

**Bunkhouse Stampede Update**  
**Starrcade '87 - Full Report**  
**Kevin Sullivan takes control**  
**Dusty Rhodes Update**  
**All the Latest News**

# **NWA** **Pro Wrestling** **Digest**<sup>TM</sup>

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Volume 1, No. 2    \$3.00

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**on Page 28**

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## **Lex Luger**

**"I Quit The Four Horsemen!"**

The entire story in Lex's own words

**"Lex Luger is a LIAR!!!"**

Responses from the other Horsemen

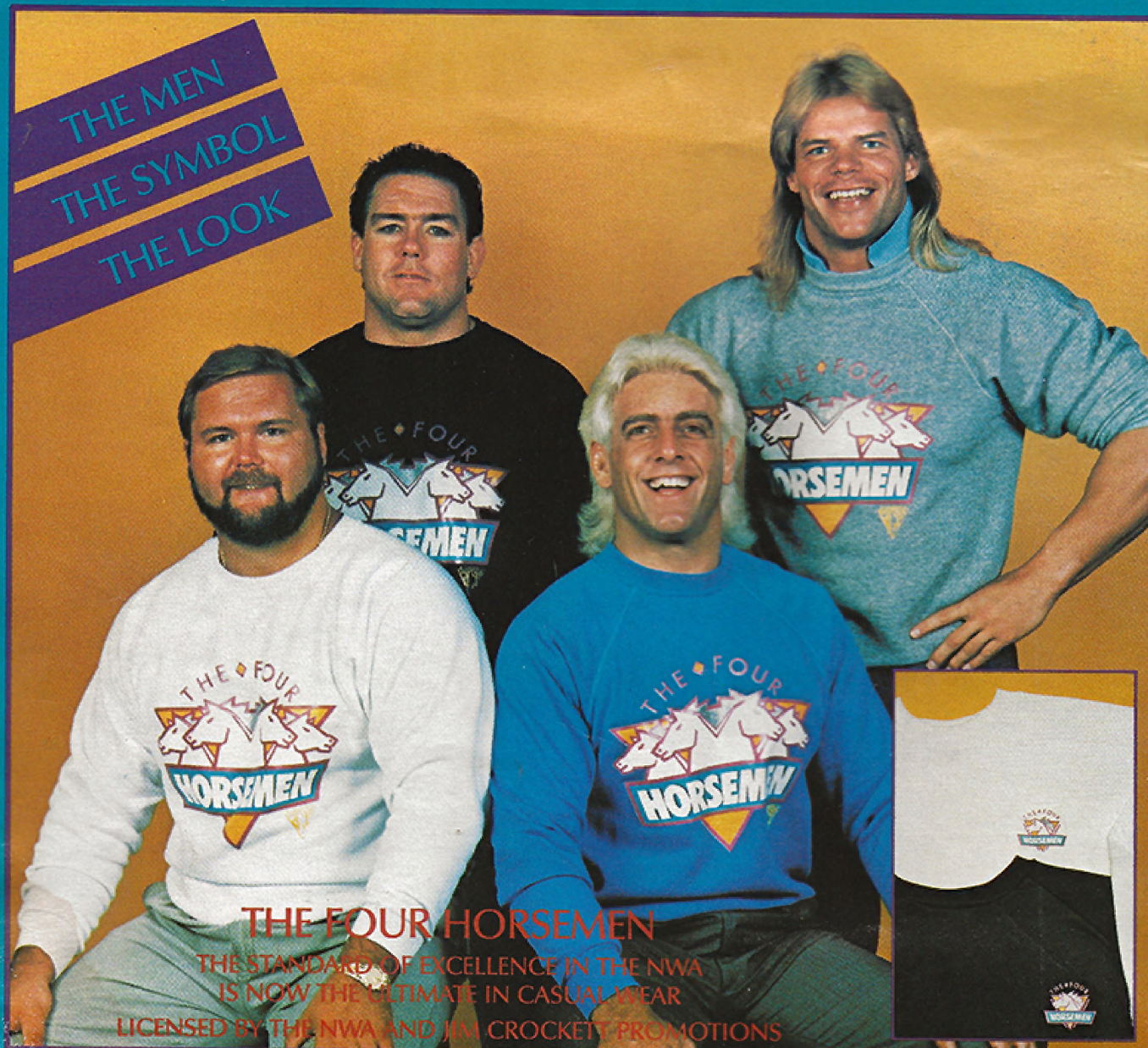
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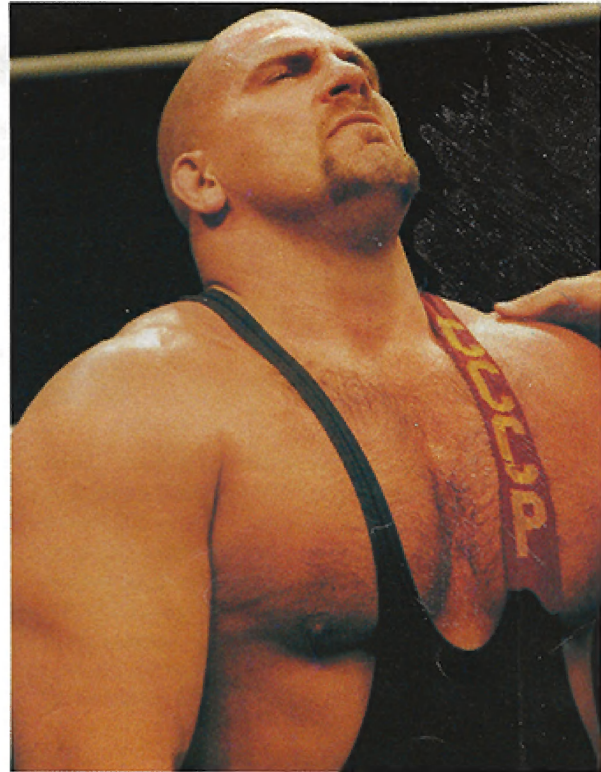
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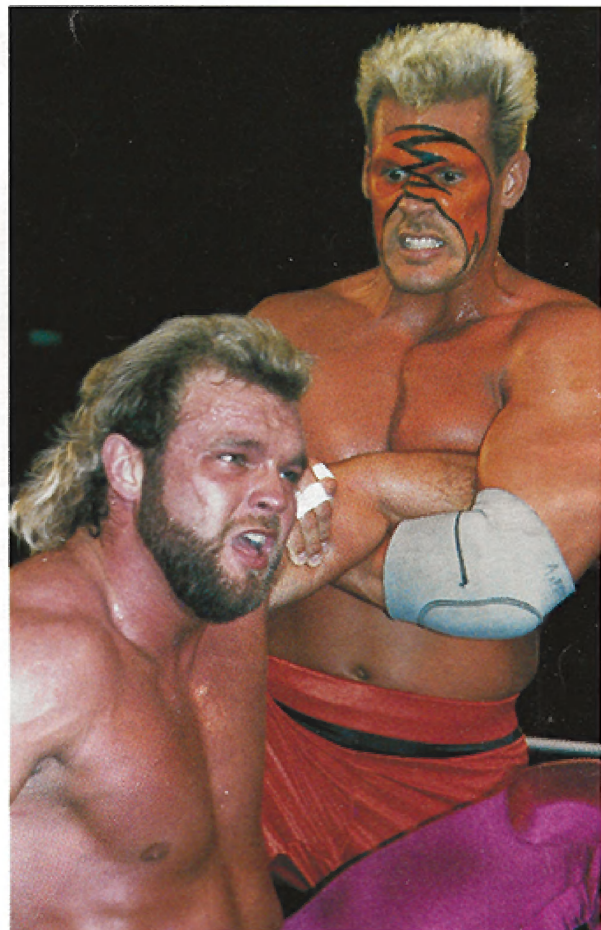
Ric Flair - victorious at Starrcade.



Nikita Koloff



Road Warrior Hawk at Starrcade.

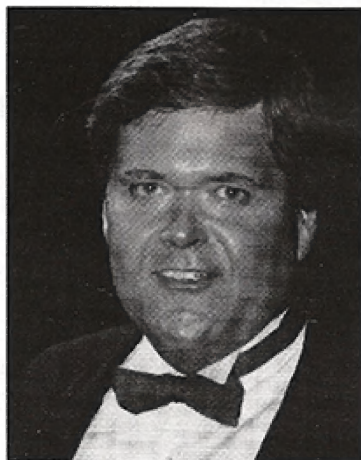


Sting puts his former manager in a painful arm-bar.



# Notes from the Editor:

by  
**Jim Ross**



Welcome, again to professional wrestling's most current magazine, *NWA Pro Wrestling Digest*! This is our second issue and it is full of great stories and pictures we hope you will enjoy.

The biggest news in wrestling is the separation of Lex Luger from The Four Horsemen. Both of the involved parties tell their version of this blockbuster story in this month's magazine. Two very different viewpoints are represented. You can believe whom-ever you choose as to why this all came about. However, one thing we can all agree on, is the basic fact that Luger is now faced with the biggest test of survival in his young career.

I hope you enjoy my interview with Dusty Rhodes concerning his career plans for 1988. This interview was one of the most interesting I have ever been involved with. And the elk was tasty, too.

The Bunkhouse Stampede finals are coming up later this month in the Nassau Coliseum. If you can't be there in person, you will have the opportunity to see it live via cable TV pay-per-view. Contact your local cable company for the availability in your area. We have an update on the list of athletes that have qualified as of press time. The ten men who have qualified are some of the sports toughest men and will be battling each other for a \$500,000 winner-take-all prize. That's certainly ample motivation to cause lasting bodily harm.

1988 looks to be a very exciting year for pro wrestling. The NWA will again host the sport's premier events, including this month's Bunkhouse Stampede Finals, this spring's Third Annual Jim Crockett, Sr. Memorial Cup, the Great American Bash, and finally, Starrcade '88!

The World's Heavyweight Champion, Ric Flair, faces perhaps the toughest year of his illustrious career. Young lions like Michael Hayes, Sting, Dr. Death, Barry Windham and Nikita Koloff are ready to challenge the Nature Boy for wrestling's most coveted prize. Speaking of the Doctor and Windham, it seems that these two have developed quite a rivalry that could possibly end their longtime friendship.

Jimmy Garvin and Michael Hayes stand ready to challenge Tully Blanchard and Arn Anderson of the Four Horsemen for the World Tag Title. With all the trouble in the Horsemen's camp recently, the champs may be vulnerable. Only time will tell.

We welcome your mail and suggestions for stories and features. This magazine is unique in that it is the sport's most current and that we will respond to your suggestions. Keep in touch... and Happy New Year!



**Publisher:**  
Dennis A. Brent

**Editor:**  
Jim Ross

**Editorial Assistant:**  
Lynn Brent

#### **NWA-PWD Photography Team:**

**Photo Editor:**  
Dennis A. Brent

Woody Smith  
Jimmy Suzuki  
Anastasia Pantisios  
Jim Zerschling  
Roy Guthrie

**Office Manager:**  
Lynn Brent

#### **Page Layout and Typesetting:**

Dennis, Ed, Laurie & Barry  
Mac N. Tosh  
Aldus Pagemaker II

#### **Printing and Graphic Services:**

ATIP, Dallas (214) 484-1177

#### **Film Processing:**

Roy & Dave, Photo Stop, Dallas (214) 307-1452

#### **Editorial/Advertising Office:**

All Pro Wrestling Publishing Co.  
PO Box 75379-6488  
17060 Dallas Parkway, Suite 114  
Dallas, TX 75248  
(214) 733-0850

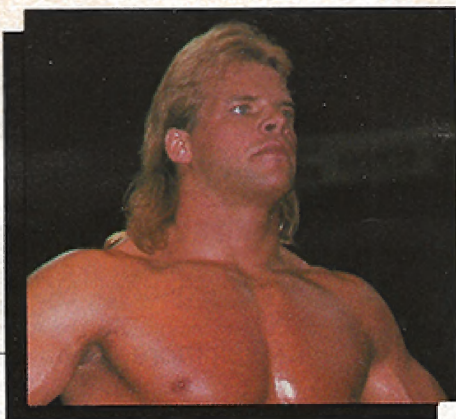
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# Letters to the Editor:

*If you have any questions about wrestlers or wrestling, please write to Letters To The Editor, PO Box 6488, Dallas TX 75379. Due to volume, all letters cannot be answered in these pages, so please include a self-addressed stamped envelope for a personal reply. We cannot give out wrestlers' addresses or personal information, but we'll try to answer whatever we can. Sometimes letters are edited to fit the space allowed. We encourage you to write us.*

Dear All Pro Wrestling,

My little girl and I went to a UWF-NWA show in Little Rock on Nov. 29. It was great. We loved to finally see all the top stars of the UWF and NWA. My hats off to all of you. To see Ric Flair wrestle in person was a dream come true. I love your magazine.

Robert Newhouse  
Searcy, AR

*Thanks, Robert. Glad you enjoyed the show (and our magazine). The NWA will be returning to your area in coming months, so be sure to watch the TV shows for announcements.*

Dear All Pro,

I think your wrestling magazine is the best. You cover all of the news, the latest updates, monthly wrestling schedules, personal interviews, the fans' views and I especially enjoy P.S. Rumors.

I'd like to tell everyone that Terry Taylor hasn't changed a bit. He's always been a user to get what he wants. When he was a good guy, he charmed his way to the top using his fans to make him popular and his associates to gain public recognition. When he lost his TV title and wasn't good enough to win it back (or any other title), it was because his fans and associates finally saw through him and when he could no longer use them, he couldn't cope with it.

Terry Taylor is selfish and greedy. He does not want to share the spotlight with anyone else. Terry and Eddie Gilbert make a good pair because Eddie is a user too. Terry stole the TV title in the first

place, of course, with the illegal aid of Gilbert.

Terry lost the TV title to Nikita Koloff Thanksgiving night. As usual, users are losers.  
Toni Madsen  
Jacksonville, AR

*Thanks, Toni. Michael Hayes' column, P.S. Rumors, will be back in a future issue. He is so busy right now with his new tag-team partner Jimmy Garvin, and his singles career, that he doesn't have time to write. He promises to return with a new column very soon. In the meantime, we have received a letter from Eddie Gilbert stating that he demands equal time and would like his own column, which he intends to call, "Eddie Gilbert's Hot Line." We'll see how this develops, but perhaps it would be interesting to rotate guest-columns and have several different wrestlers turn in a column to us every few months.*

Dear Pro Wrestling Digest,

WOW!! I just received your new issue and am VERY impressed with your recent upgrade in quality! The color pictures all through the issue were awesome! Your magazine was already the best wrestling book out there, but now there is no question. Thanks for keeping us informed.

Bobby Tyler  
Detroit, MI

Dear Editors,

I am really upset now. I thought it was disgusting the way the Road Warriors did not get to keep the Tag-Team belts at Starrcade in Chicago when they won them. Anderson and Blanchard were no contest and were lucky to escape alive. I would like to see a rematch of this title event in a cage next time, hopefully here in Chicago  
Debbie Lewis  
Evanston, IL

Dear PWD,

I am worried about Dr. Death. Is he turning bad? I've noticed several things that make me wonder what he is really

thinking sometimes.  
Connie Wilson  
Houston, TX

Dear PWD,

Can you tell me more about Black Bart? In his own way, Black Bart is really cool. Is he married? What are his interests? Would he consider leaving Akbar? John and Tammy Long  
Broken Arrow, OK

*Black Bart usually doesn't talk about his personal life. He has wrestled all over the country and has held many major regional titles in his career. He hails from the Badlands of South Dakota, but now has a ranch in Texas. When we asked him if he was married, he told us "it flat wasn't any of our business and to get out of his face." We told him that some fans thought he was "cool" and wanted to know what his interests were, outside of wrestling. He was pretty amazed at that, but said that it wasn't anybody's business. Trying one more time, and knowing a little about Bart, I asked him about his ranch. That's when he smiled.*

*He said, "Yea, when I have time off from wrestling, I love going out to my ranch. I've got some real nice horses and it's great to just go out and ride for a few days, camp out, fish - you know, live on the range with no electricity or conveniences. I repair some fences and check the property and the animals. My help keeps it full time for me, but I do like getting out there."*

*I felt lucky, so I asked one more*

*Letters continue on Page 27...*

## Coming Next Month...

- Update: Bunkhouse Stampede Finals
- The Latest on Dusty Rhodes' Attack
- The latest on the Lex Luger situation
- Who will be the Fourth Horseman?
- Update on Kevin Sullivan's group
- More Interviews! More quotes!
- More FULL COLOR pictures!
- Eddie Gilbert's HOTLINE
- Two More Contest Ballots!

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# Sting vs. Ric Flair



Flair's chops were stinging and could be heard all over the building.

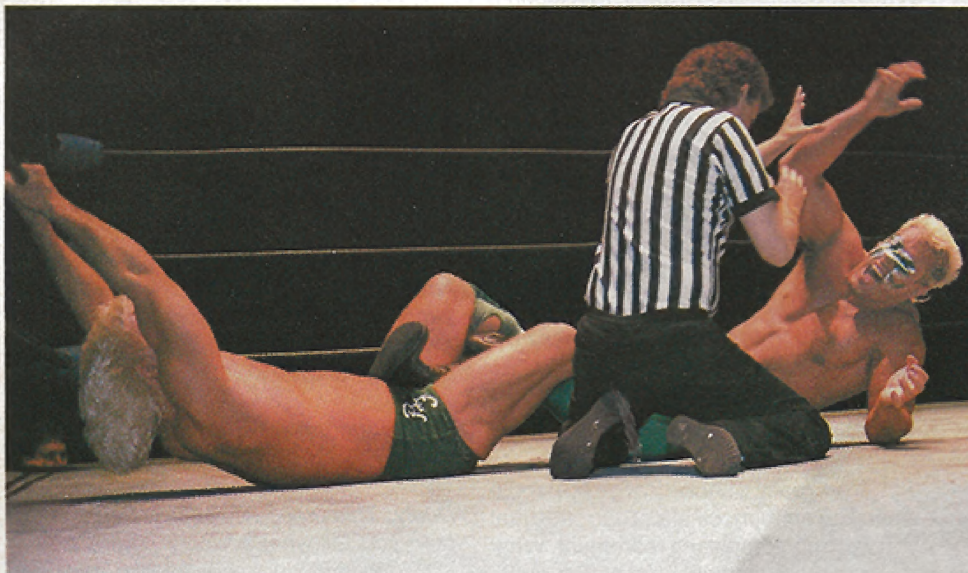


Sting makes a come-back and flies through the air hard into Flair's throat.

Before Starrcade, Ric Flair made some remarks about Sting, something to the effect of "a kid who wears make-up." Other remarks were made, but Flair never took Sting seriously. He thought Sting was a joke. In Tulsa, Sting was involved in a six-man match that involved Flair. Sting showed Flair who he was, and that he was to be respected. Since then, Sting has climbed in the ratings and has earned his chance for the World Title. This page features a title-shot in which Flair was tested to the best of his ability and as the bottom picture shows, he cheated. Ric Flair is the best wrestler in the world and does not need to resort to these tactics, but he does anyway. *WHY?*



Flair introduces Sting to the barricade.



Above: Ric Flair puts his patented Figure-Four submission hold on Sting and then pulls the ropes to increase the leverage. Sting could not stand the pain and referee Randy Anderson did not catch Flair in the act. Sting lost this particular match, but he vows he will get a return title-shot at Flair.



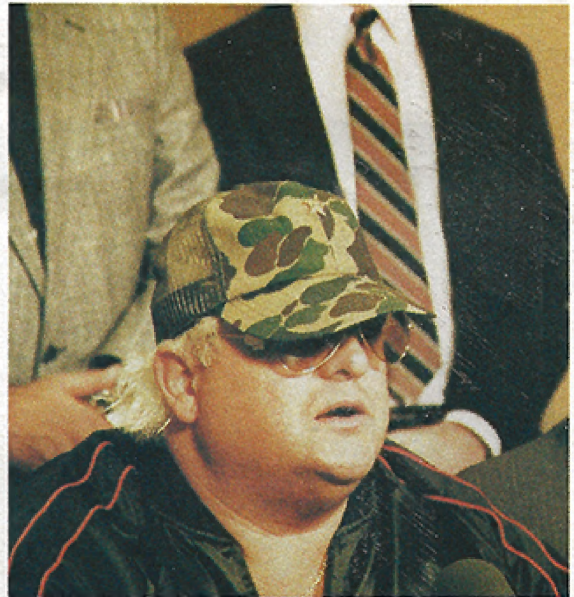
Sting sends Flair flying high!



A private conversation with

# Dusty Rhodes

After Starrcade '87, The American Dream gave a press conference hinting that he may retire soon. Editor Jim Ross travels to Dusty's hideout in Colorado to find out what The Dream's plans are for 1988. Will he retire??



Dusty Rhodes at his press conference after Starrcade.

In last month's issue of NWA Pro Wrestling Digest, it was reported that Dusty Rhodes was seriously considering retiring from the sport he has dominated for sixteen years. Rhodes made this brief and shocking statement at an impromptu-called press conference after Starrcade in Chicago on Thanksgiving.

I wanted to find out more about Rhodes' situation and attempted to contact the Dream to secure an interview. Rhodes had been uncharacteristically quiet concerning his future and had not made any additional public statement since Starrcade.

Catching up to the Dream is about as difficult as pouring smoke through a key hole. Finally, I talked to the big Texan on the telephone and he consented to an exclusive interview to discuss his future, but there were a few conditions I had to agree to. First of all, I had to travel to a small mining town in Northern Colorado, PLUS he made it very clear - NO cameras!

My flight to Denver was pretty uneventful, but then things got really interesting. I boarded a small commuter flight to snowy Northern Colorado. I think the pilot was a World War I veteran. I started to ask him if he personally knew Orville and Wilbur Wright, but decided against it. The flight to the Dream's sanctuary was breathtaking! The skies were clear and blue, and the mountains! Well, the Rocky Mountains are one of God's most beautiful creations, especially this time of the year when they are snow-capped. What a Christmas card these scenes would make!

We finally arrived at our destination and after I kissed the runway (have you ever ridden a roller coaster for 90 minutes?), I was approached by a man who wanted to know if I was ready to go see Dusty. We got in his Jeep and proceeded to drive about five miles to a town. Oh, another condition I had to agree to was not releasing the name of the Dream's hideout. Rhodes wanted to make

sure this special place would remain as it is now, quiet and peaceful.

We pulled into this small town that had one store, one service station, and one saloon. Notice, I did not say "bar". It was a real saloon and I had a pretty good idea that's where I could find Dusty.

As I approached the town's watering hole, I could hear the jukebox playing and in a few more steps I could tell it was the unmistakable sounds of Willie Nelson. I knew then I was getting real close. The sign on the door said, "No guns, No knives, & No fighting".

I stepped out of the cold through the timber-log door and, seemingly, back into history. A couple of men were bellied up to the bar as my eyes searched for the man I had come to talk with. And there he sat, next to a rock fireplace that was really putting out the heat. Dusty was wearing his traditional attire, Wrangler Jeans, a plaid western shirt, boots and a 10X silver belly Stetson. A down coat lay in the chair next to him. He seemed happy to see me and was anxious to find out how the Celtics were doing in the NBA. He ordered something for me that was brought to our table by the establishment's owner, bartender and janitor, Sam. Old Sam pours a mean drink, let me tell you! Best way to describe it was like drinking liquid fire, but it served its purpose and certainly warmed me up. Sam asked if I wanted another, but I politely said, "no thanks." The Dream just smiled as he sipped on his longneck.

Jim: You really shocked a lot of people when you announced after Starrcade that you were contemplating retirement. What motivated you to make that statement?

Dusty: Jim, 1987 was a very tough year

for me, physically. I had a lot of nagging injuries that many people didn't know about. I've had trouble with my knees and leg, especially. I had just finished one of the most emotionally and physically challenging bouts of my career against a tremendous young superstar, Lex Luger. I thought it might be my time to call it quits.

Jim: What did your family think of your announcement?

Dusty: They were surprised, maybe shocked is a better word. It was totally unexpected for them, too. My family is always behind me no matter what.

Jim: Did they try to influence your decision?

Dusty: Absolutely not. I have been very fortunate to have been blessed with a wonderful and supportive family. The decision was mine to make.

Jim: I really had a hard time tracking you down. What did you do after Starrcade?

Dusty: I spent some quality time with my family. I went to Texas and drove for hours in my pickup and did a lot of thinking. Then I came up here. I've done some hunting. As a matter of fact, we are going to have some elk steak I killed for supper tonight. Old Sam's a helluva cook.

Jim: It sounds like this place is great therapy for you.

Dusty: This place IS special. People here take you for what you are. There are no stars, no limos, or luxury hotels. Just good down-to-earth folks that really care. Honesty is a way of life here. People up here will



*damn sure let you know what's on their mind.*

Jim: Have you made a decision about 1988? It's obvious you have done a great deal of thinking.

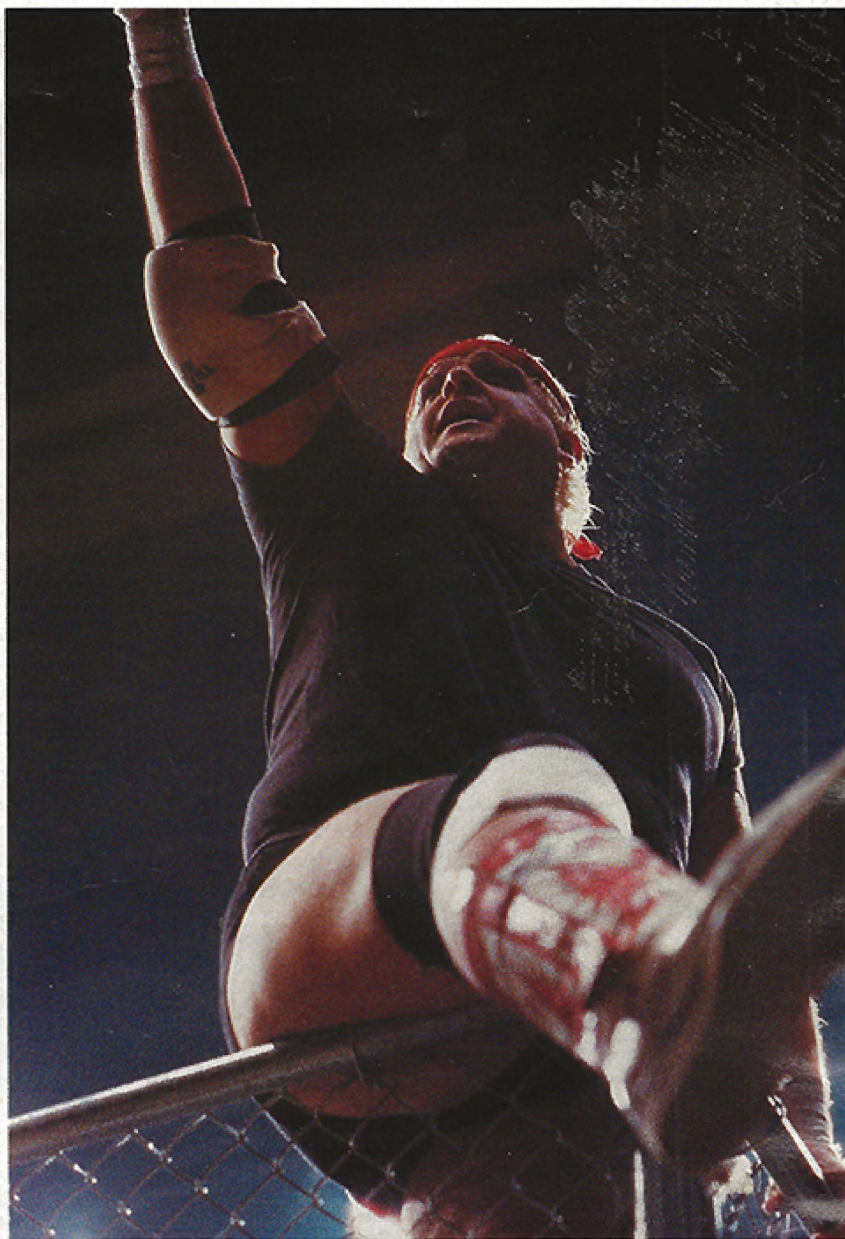
*Dusty: This has been a tough time for me. I've fought the toughest men in this sport and I've done it on a regular basis for the past sixteen years. My old body has been beat on for a long time. There's not a day that goes by that I don't hurt somewhere. But when it came down to a decision, I couldn't turn and walk away from the people who have stood with me over the years.*

Jim: So does that mean you have decided to compete in the NWA in 1988?

*Dusty: That's the story. I've dedicated 1988 to the wrestling fans, to the people of this great country. I plan on defending the US Title throughout this land of ours for the PEOPLE. Every man, woman, and child in America that has supported me over the years owns a piece of this championship. And as long as I have breath in my body, this title will be defended in the name of everybody that works hard in our country and lives the American Dream with me.*

Jim: That's great news, Dust! But what about your super-partner Nikita Koloff? Will your US Title defenses prevent your teaming with Nikita?

*Dusty: Our country recently made a commitment with Russia to begin eliminating nuclear weapons. I made a personal commitment to improve relations with the Soviet Union long before it was fashionable when I formed the Superpowers with Nikita. He knows I am loyal and sincere and I'll be his partner for as long as he wants me. I will not turn my back on Nikita and he knows it. We'll be kicking tail in tag matches for a long time to come.*



Above: The American Dream at Starrcade.



Jim: Well, big man I guess I got what I came after. I want to thank you for granting this interview for NWA Pro Wrestling Digest. The wrestling fans will be very happy to hear you aren't going to hang 'em up.

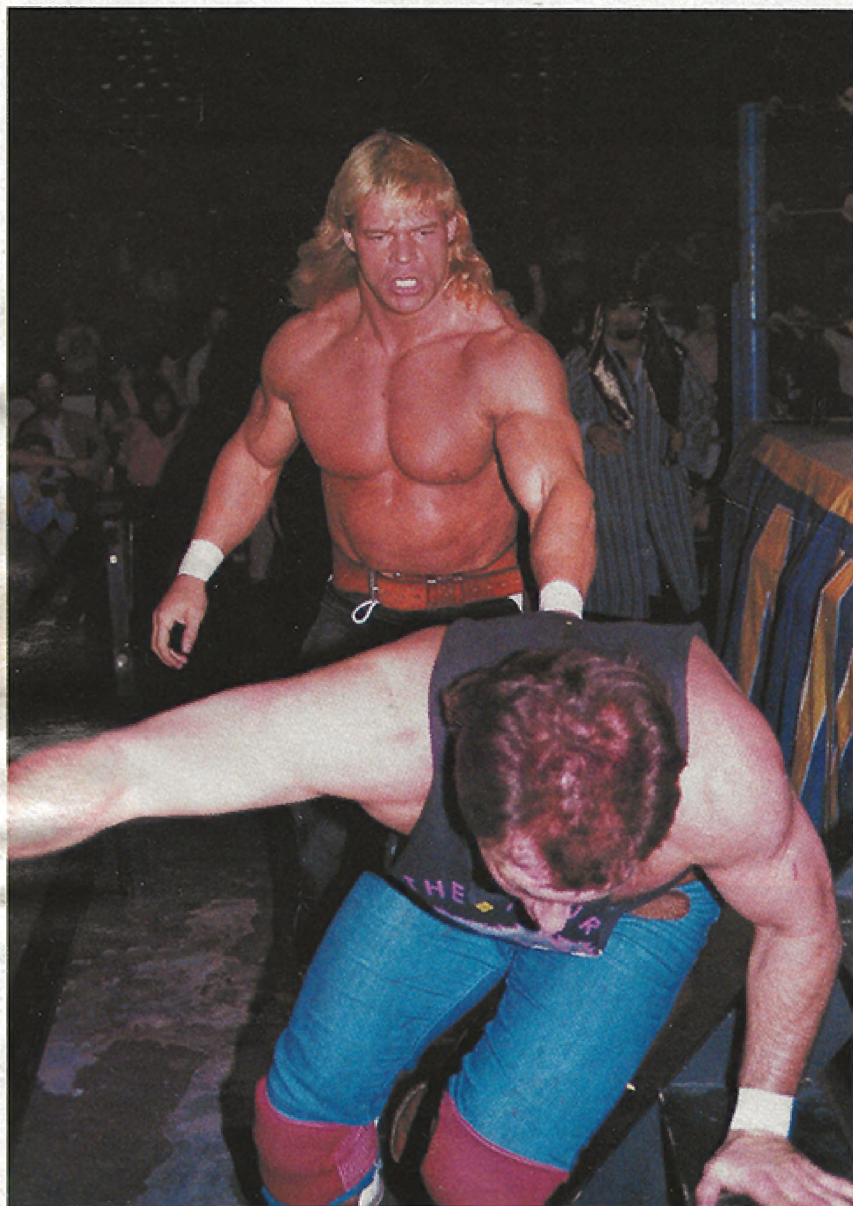
*Dusty: You're sure welcome, Jim. I'm glad you got to visit God's Country here in the mountains. And now, partner, it's time we started thinking about elk steak dinner! Sam, let's eat!*

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# LEX LUGER QUILTS THE FOUR HORSEMEN!!

A Chronological Description of the Occurance of Events.



Lex Luger attacks Tully Blanchard during a recent Bunkhouse Stampede.

Lex Luger, one of wrestling's fastest rising stars, lost the U.S. Title to Dusty Rhodes on Thanksgiving night in Chicago at Starrcade '87. It was a fiercely fought match ending when J.J. Dillon threw a chair into the cage for Luger to use on Rhodes. Instead, Rhodes dropped Luger onto the chair with a vicious D.D.T. and getting the pin, winning the match and the title.

Shortly after Starrcade, rumors started circulating that there was trouble in the Horsemen camp. One of the premier units in pro wrestling was having problems, the rumors were saying. Accusations were being passed around the Horsemen. Talk

of jealousy kept coming up. Hints were made in television interviews that "something" wasn't quite right, but it was all kept behind the scenes. On the surface, everything looked fine. They kept quiet about their troubles. But the rumors persisted.

Tony Shiavone, Jim Ross, David Crockett and myself went on a mission to find out what was really going on. As the days unfolded after Starrcade, we couldn't find out too much. The Horsemen were not talking, as the following interview shows.

One evening about a week after Starrcade, Tony Shiavone approached the Horsemen with their manager as they were exiting their limousine at an arena and asked, "J.J., there's been rumors about bad blood between the Horsemen. Can you explain this?"

Dillon replied, "Shiavone, there's no problem with the Four Horsemen and frankly, I'm tired of people asking me that. There is no problem and I have no other comment to make."

Next Ric Flair walks by. Tony grabs him and asks, "Champ, we've been hearing about problems in the Horsemen camp. Anything to it?"

Flair responds, "Shiavone, there's no problem. I've heard the rumors too, but there's nothing to it. I'm the team captain and I'm telling you. We're the greatest team unit in this business. No problem with the unit, got it?"

Luger, Blanchard and Anderson just kind of pushed by Tony and did not make themselves available for questions.

A few days later, Tony gets an opportunity to speak with Lex Luger without the other Horsemen. J.J. Dillon, however, was present at the interview. Tony decides to approach the situation from a different angle.

Tony asked, "Lex, tell us about Starrcade."

Luger replied, "Tony, Starrcade was everything it was built up to be and just the first of many great events to come for me in my career. The level of intensity was unbelievable. It was like electricity. When I got in that ring, and Dusty Rhodes and I locked eyes, it was like the past, present and future of professional wrestling was right there in the ring at that moment. Dusty Rhodes, I gotta hand it to you. You gave me a very tough match. You showed me that you are who you say you are."

Tony asked, "What about your loss at Starrcade? How will that affect you?"



"Tony, that night in Chicago, when I looked into Dusty Rhodes' eyes, I knew that game plan set forth for me by my manager was all wrong. Totally wrong."

At that point, Dillon woke up, looked at Luger and said, "Shiavone, this interview is over. Luger, I don't think I heard you right. You and I need to talk."

Luger replied, "James, this interview is over when I say it's over. We've been friends for a long time. What I'm saying is that you are welcome to accompany me to the ring at anytime. But the bottom line is that I will win or lose matches on my own merits as an athlete. There will be no more outside interference from you."

J.J. looked kind of shocked and walked off mumbling to himself that it would all get straightened out.

The following weekend, there was a Bunkhouse Stampede in Miami, Florida. In front of a packed house, the contestants were eliminated one by one. All of a sudden there was a hush. It just became apparent that soon the only contestants left would be three of The Four Horsemen as well as their manager, J.J. Dillon, who put up his own \$1000 to be in the event that night. After Wilbur was eliminated, that was exactly who was left, J.J., Arn, Tully and Lex.

J.J. thought that the match could be called a draw and told the referee so, but was informed by the officials that the NWA requires a single winner for the record books and for the final tally of the Bunkhouse Finals.

Dillon then asked Lex, Arn and Tully to eliminate themselves by throwing themselves over the top rope. He called Arn and Tully over and told them that he would split the money with them and Luger, that this was his chance to get in the record books. He asked would they please do it for him.

Arn and Tully immediately said, "This one's for you, baby," did a high-five and threw themselves over the ropes, eliminating themselves from the contest. Lex was still standing in the ring across from J.J. Luger was ignoring his manager and would not come over to him. Anderson saw this and jumped onto the ring apron closest to Lex. He said, "That's it, Lex. It's over. Give him a high-five. You're through. Get out of here."

Luger came over to him and responded, "Are you asking me or telling me?"

Anderson replied, "Are you hard of hearing? I said, YOU, over the ropes, boy. Out! I guess if that's the case I'm telling you. This is for J.J. Now get out."

Luger responded, "I'm my own man. I make my own decisions."

That was enough for Anderson, who



then jumped off the apron.

J.J. came over to Luger bragging to him about getting in the record books. Luger grabbed him by the neck and ran him full-speed across the ring and over the top ropes, eliminating Dillon and winning the Stampede in the process.

Blanchard immediately ran in the ring towards Luger, who scooped him up high over his shoulders and then slammed him. Anderson ran in and Luger gave him a clothesline that just about tore Arn's head off. Luger then picked Anderson up, applied a belly-to-belly suplex and stretched Anderson across his shoulders to apply his patented back-breaker.

Lex was really pumping to apply the most pressure to the hold he could, when Blanchard ran in with a chair and clipped Luger right behind his knee. Blanchard then went to town on his leg and then Arn joined in. They stomped his left knee repeatedly. Blanchard then put Luger in a figure-four while Anderson repeatedly worked on the knee, even jumping on it from the top rope. J.J. Dillon used his shoe on the knee several times as well. It was a vicious scene that went on for several minutes. Finally some wrestlers from the back ran out and broke it up. Luger had to be helped to the locker area.

I went to the back to see what was going on. I asked several wrestlers out of curiosity, why they ran out and helped Luger. For the most part, the wrestlers said they were confused by the situation and didn't know if they should run out and help him or not. Several said that they really didn't do it for Lex, but to hopefully stop a very serious injury to a fellow athlete. Others chose not to help at all. It was a very confusing situation for everybody that night.

This story is FAR from over.

## NWA UPDATE

Last minute News...



**Paul Jones and The Warlord,** as well as The Barbarian, are going after The Road Warriors. Jones claims that his two men are the strongest men in wrestling. Paul Ellering could not believe this claim and thought Jones must be kidding. Jones retaliated by putting up \$50,000 in a contest of Ellering's choice, who chose pressing weights. The Road Warriors can each press 650 pounds easily. This contest will be coming up in January, so watch for it. *We don't trust Paul Jones.*



**The Sheepherders double-team Ricky Morton.**

In a recent matchup, The Sheepherders did a two-on-one on Ricky Morton. Robert Gibson ran in and helped, but suffered a temporary back injury as a result. This feud has sprung from nowhere, but can only mean big trouble for Ricky and Robert. The Sheepherders are known for going after one team and trying to destroy them. *Watch it!*



# THE FOUR HORSEMEN'S RESPONSE TO THE LEX LUGER SITUATION...



*A few days later, we flew to the Super-Station WTBS studios in Atlanta for the tapings of the top-rated world-wide cable/satellite show, WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING. All four of the Four Horsemen, including Dillon, were scheduled to be there. This was the first time they would be together since the event in Florida (Luger did not fly back on Flair's private jet that night). Jim, Tony and David had interview time allotted for all of them and their job that day was to make sure all five men showed up to talk about the situation. We waited in the dressing areas set aside for the Horsemen. I had my tape-recorder ready. After about twenty minutes, in came James J. Dillon, followed by Flair, Anderson and Blanchard.*

**David Crockett:** Hi J.J., what's going on? We just broadcast Tony's interview on national television where Luger blames you for Starrcade. Is there or is there not problems within the Horsemen?

**J.J. Dillon:** Who told you to broadcast that? Sure, there's been a great amount of tension surrounding the Four Horsemen. In fact it was so thick at times that you couldn't cut it with a serrated knife. Very bad at times. But we kept it to ourselves. At least until Luger decided to take it public.

**Tony Shiavone:** When did this all start?

**J.J.:** It all goes back to Thanksgiving night, Starrcade. It was the night that the Four Horsemen had a chance for a clean-sweep. To take back the World Heavyweight Title, to defend the World Tag-Team Titles, to defend the U.S. Title and finally, to destroy a legend in the process. And each member of the Horsemen had a game-plan that he took to the ring that worked. We compiled victory after victory. And then we had an athlete that went in the ring to defend his U.S. Title. He also had his game-plan, which was fine, when it worked for him. But the minute his shortcomings resulted in an ending that was not to his liking, he started to question the game-plan. A team player NEVER questions the game-plan that his coach hands him. Never or he's off the team. Well, we tolerated the situation. I was not happy with him, but we gave him another chance. Even though he insulted me

by questioning the game-plan for Starrcade. But the gap was there and it was widening. Everyday my mind was preoccupied with solving this dilemma.

**David:** So then what happened?

**J.J.:** Well, December is Bunkhouse Stampede Month. Well, I got in a Stampede to hold my boys together. To show them what unity was. The situation arose where the last men in the ring were the Four Horsemen and myself.

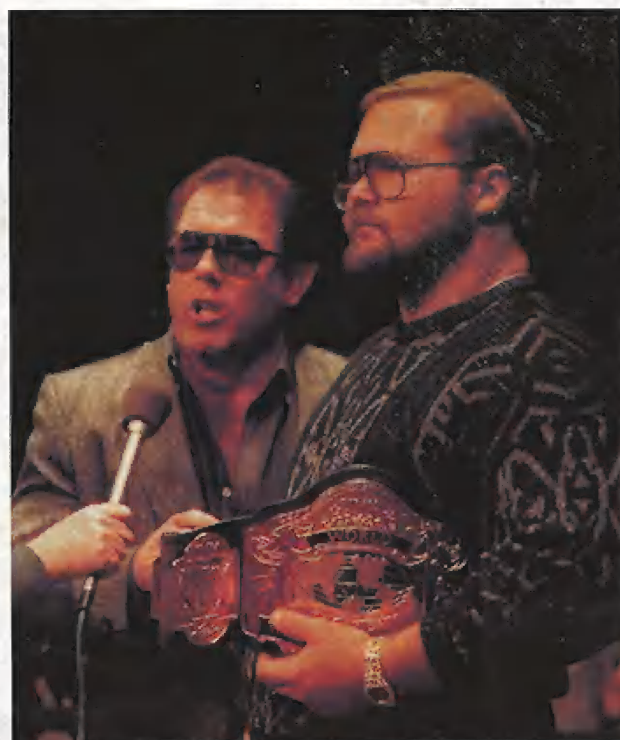
**Jim Ross:** You wanted to stop the match. Make it not continue.

**J.J.:** Right. That's right, Ross. I told the referee that the match ends right here. The Horsemen will divide the money. They are a team. But I was told no. That there had to be one winner. All of a sudden I saw my chance to get my name in the record books alongside names like Dusty Rhodes, Bubba Rogers and a select few as winners of a Bunkhouse Stampede. A dream I never thought I'd realize. Arn Anderson high-fived and sacrificed himself over the top-ropes. Tully Blanchard high-fived and he was gone. And that's when it got real interesting.

**David:** Luger threw you over the ropes and won the match. I was right there and I saw it.

**J.J.:** Look, David Crockett, I was the one on Thanksgiving night who said I had the perfect athlete with the perfect plan. One that would destroy a dream. We now know that this is a man who is not capable of executing a game-plan. He will not follow orders and only thinks of himself. I'm through with him. He's fired.

**Dennis:** Lex told me that he quit the Horsemen. He walked out on you.



**J.J.:** No one walks out on being a Horseman! Are you kidding? We get thousands of letters a week from wrestlers wanting to be with us. We threw him out.

**Jim:** What about jealousy? We kept hearing about jealousy in the Horsemen involving Luger.

**J.J.:** You mean Luger jealous of us?

**Jim:** No, I mean the others maybe jealous of Luger.

**J.J.:** Jim Ross, let me ask you this. Arn Anderson is one of the most solid, toughest brawlers in wrestling. Tully Blanchard is one of the best technical wrestlers in the business. And then you've got Ric Flair who is all of the above and more. All of these men are World Champions. I guided all these men to their titles. They followed my game-plan. And it worked for them. Luger periodically questioned the game-plan and that is when we had to run in and occasionally make a save for him. It is not for the player to question the coach. Do you hear that? Do you hear that?

**Jim:** I hear you, J.J.



J.J.: He lost Starrcade. The game-plan was perfect. The athlete was very far from being perfect.

Dennis: So what advice do you have for Lex Luger?

J.J.: The man better find another way to make a buck in this business.

Tully Blanchard: I want to say something. We've heard a lot from Lex Luger since Thanksgiving. Things like, "Ric, it's your fault. J.J., it's your fault. It's the game plan." Never saying, "I'm sorry guys. As one of The Horsemen I let you down." No, it's everybody else's fault. Not yours. Well Lex. If that's the way you want it, that's fine. You are not a Horsemen anymore. Now you are out there all on your own. Well now we'll see how bad you really are. Ric, you want to say something? This is for the magazine.

Ric Flair: You know, Luger. I promised I wouldn't throw any mud, but I'm gonna tell you something, pal. We partied real hard all across America. We had victory parties that Marriotts and Sheratons will be talking about for a long time. Space Mountain was lit up all night long. I'm at a point right now where this whole thing has got me a little mystified. You know, I personally liked Lex Luger. He was my friend. Not only did I find Luger to be a really class guy, but saw in him one of the greatest athletes I've ever competed with in this sport. He wouldn't have caught the attention of Jimmy Dillon if he wasn't a great one. But the problem is that Luger, instead of walking that path laid out for only a select few, he let his head wander to the left and to the right. He started thinking about other things. J.J. Dillon has personally taken me to two World Titles. This is a man who would have taken you very far, Lex Luger. Where have you really been in your career? He's taken Arn and Tully to the World's Tag-team Championship. You blew it, pal. You better find another way to make a buck in this sport. You may have one of the best bodies in wrestling, but I'll tell you what, pal. I never had one girl come up to me and say, "Nature Boy, how much can you bench press?" No, that question was NEVER asked. So the bottom line is, pal, that diamonds are forever, and so are the Four Horsemen. Run along, pal. You're through.

Arn Anderson: I want to add something here, champ. One year ago, J.J. Dillon found a kid from the Everglades with a fantastic body that's willing to learn. We took him under our wing. Can you imagine the prestige of being under the wing of the most prestigious group in pro wrestling?



Men that include the World Champion? The Tag-Team Champions? And the best financial mind in wrestling? This man from Florida had everything going for him. His road to the top was insured. He wouldn't need to sit there climbing that ladder for years. His association with the Horsemen assured that he would be always at the top. We taught him just about everything we knew. But he just didn't have it as a team member. You know, the Horsemen are only as strong as the sum of its parts. We just got rid of a weak link. The Horsemen will be around a long time after you're dead and gone, Luger. Well I'm taking it upon myself, Luger. I'm the one who's going to prove to you that by yourself you're just a nobody. You don't have a game-plan anymore. Or the power of the Horsemen. You're history, baby!

J.J.: That's enough, men. This press conference is over.





# "I Quit The Four Horsemen and I'm on my own now."

Lex Luger's side of this situation, in his very own words.

You've read what happened. You've read what James J. Dillon and the Four Horsemen think about the situation. Now, Lex Luger's side, in his very own words.

I'd be a liar, if I didn't say that this is a very painful, emotional time for me, both personally and professionally. You see, I have sweat, trained, bled, fought and lived with the Four Horsemen for the past year. Some of the best times in my life that I will cherish forever were with the Four Horsemen.

By the way, on a side note, the Four Horsemen live what they say. They live life to the fullest, and I'll never forget some of the times we had.

Anyway, when I first got here, everyone was saying, "Lex, the Super-Star. Lex, the future World Champion. Lex, be my friend."

I was being pulled from all sides. In life you have paths you have to choose. Sometimes it means leaving friends and past partners behind you. But for your future you must

make that choice. When I first arrived in the NWA, there were two paths laid out for me, and I had to make a choice. I saw an elevator over here, with a group of men, waving and smiling. Men who were very successful and tremendous athletes. Over on the other side I saw a steep flight of stairs to climb. When you're an ambitious person like myself, it blinds you sometimes. But you have to live with your decisions in life.

At one time, I had a very good friend by the name of Barry Windham. He came out on national TV my first day here and said, "Luger, you're making a mistake."

I spit in his face.

I have to live with that every day for the rest of my life.

When I decided to become a Horseman, I made the total commitment. I was a team-player. Whenever a game-plan was laid down I executed it to the best of my ability.

And you know? Many times I would lay awake at night, with my eyes wide open and stare at the ceiling. I would think about some of the things we had to do to "complete the game-plan."

Now I have to say that leading up to Starrcade, I held up my side of being a Horsemen. At Starrcade, there was a game-plan laid out. I'm not saying that I agreed with it, but I went through with it. When I climbed into the ring that night, that match was mine. To win or lose on my own, with no outside interference.

But when that chair flew over the top of the cage and into



the ring, I went through with the game-plan. With the commitment to the Horsemen. And the rest is history. I felt I had that match in control. I went through with the game-plan. The rest is history, J.J. It was your plan that was at fault. No chair and I don't lose.

Before Starrcade, there were a lot of guys standing out here without belts. Ric Flair was one of them. Arn Anderson stood out here without a belt for a long time. I was always supportive. I always offered my assistance.

The first time that the Total Package stands out here without a belt, I feel a little bit of a knife in the back.

So I decide that I've got to stand up for myself and be a man. I said, "James, when I'm in the ring, I will win, lose or draw on my own abilities as an athlete. No outside interference."

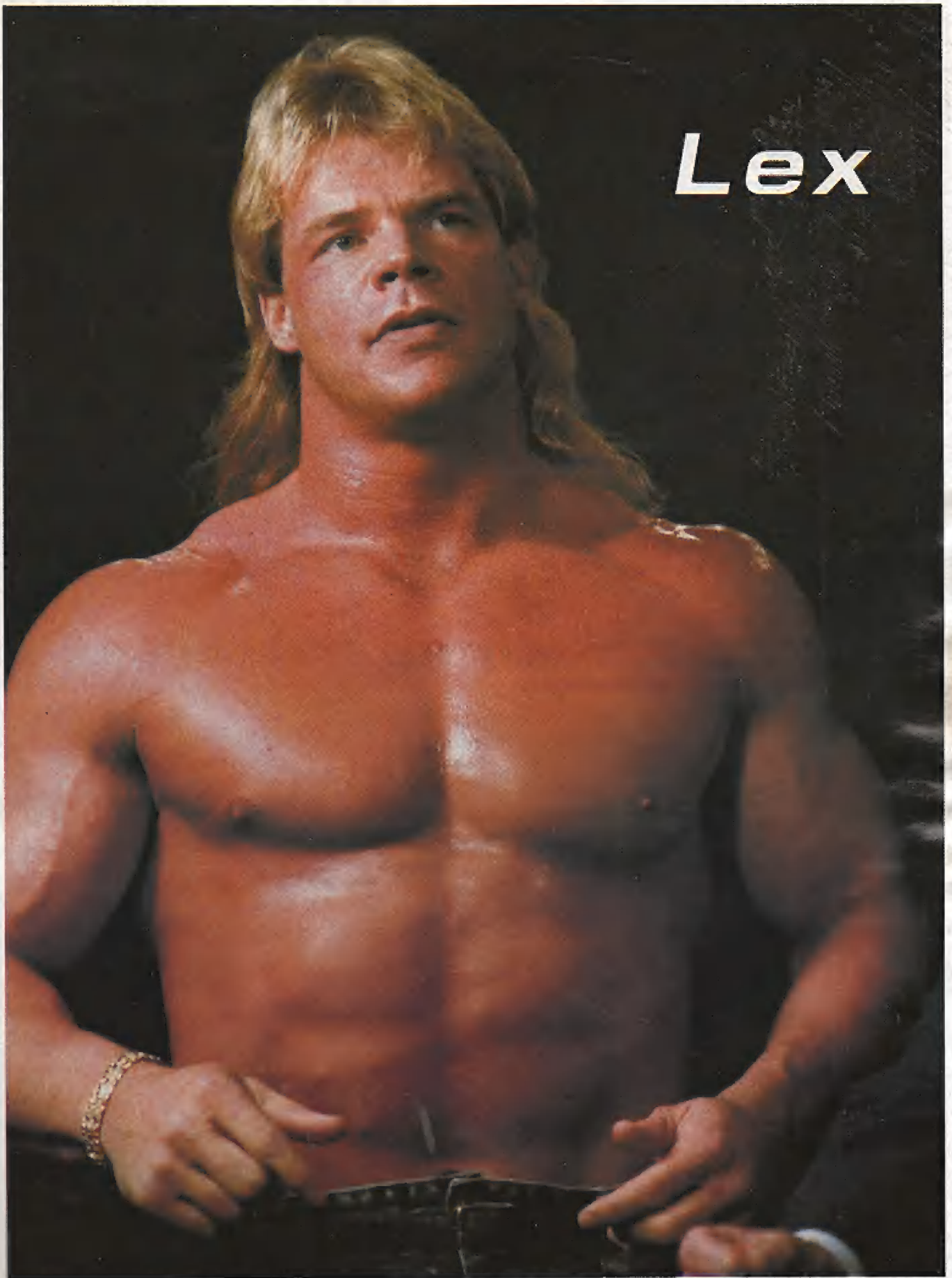
Well, I guess that didn't sit too well with the other team-mates. That is what led to what happened in Miami. You see, they were telling me what I had to do to be a team player. This was a competitive situation. This was one of the Bunkhouse Stampedes. There has to be a winner. I'm sick and tired of shortcuts. If there's going to be a winner in a Bunkhouse Stampede, it's going to be by an athlete who competed for it. There's no friends or associates in a Stampede. I wanted to wrestle for it and they didn't want to.

A lot has happened. But I'll tell you what. No more shortcuts for Lex Luger. From now on, when I step in that ring, I'm going to be the athlete that everyone thought that I could be.

I'm going to climb that flight of stairs. And if the Horsemen get in my way, I'll kick them down those stairs. I will fulfill my potential. Without the Horsemen. I will not take the easy way out. I will be the greatest super-star this sport has ever seen. And I will do it by pinning my opponent in the middle of the ring. By myself.









# Hayes & Garvin

**A few thoughts from one of the hottest tag-teams in pro wrestling, Michael P.S. Hayes and "Gorgeous" Jimmy Garvin**

*We had a chance recently to talk with the popular tag-team of Michael P.S. Hayes and Gorgeous Jimmy Garvin in Baton Rouge, LA. Hayes and Garvin have been concentrating on getting a title-shot at Arn Anderson and Tully Blanchard, World Tag-Team Champions. The Horsemen must take this team as a serious threat, as they have jumped Hayes and Garvin several times when the odds were stacked in their favor.*

*Hayes and Garvin were to wrestle Tully Blanchard and Ric Flair that night. If they won, they would get a title shot with Blanchard and Anderson at a later date.*

**NWA-PWD:** This is getting real serious with you and the Horsemen.

**Jimmy:** We're just getting serious about going up in the rankings and getting our title-shots at the World Tag-Team belts. I'll tell you this. I'm not going to take anything away from the Horsemen. I'm not going to take away anything from the guy who's always in a bad mood, Tully Blanchard.

**Michael (interrupting):** You'd be in a bad mood all the time too, if you had a face like that to walk around with.

**Jimmy:** Yeah I guess so. I'd be bummed out too if I had a face like that. And I'm not going to take anything away from Arn Anderson. Because they are great athletes and great World Champions. Even though they cheat. We're coming after Arn Anderson and the guy that's always in the bad mood and we're gonna beat you and take your titles!

**Michael:** A web of deceit they weave, as they try to deceive. They tell people there is no dissension, but you see there is dissension in the Four Horsemen. We've seen it. We've heard the arguments in the locker room. This is the prime time that they are the most vulnerable. We got matches lined up. We'll beat them tonight and then we get the contracts signed. The time is right for the picking! It is time for the fall. I guarantee you, baby. Very soon, Michael P.S. Hayes and Gorgeous Jimmy Garvin will be World Tag-Team Champions.

**Jimmy:** Yeah, and it ain't my fault!

**Precious:** That's right, Jimmy. It's not.

**NWA-PWD:** You sound very confident. If the Horsemen are indeed at odds with each other, then your timing couldn't be better. Any final words?

**Michael:** Yeah, Horsemen... we got what it takes, to take what you got, like four peas in a pot and the peas wouldn't be jumping if the water wasn't hot. Got it?

**Jimmy:** Yeah, I like that.

**Right:**  
**Hayes sends Tully Blanchard flying with a blow to the gut as Tully bounced off the ropes.**

**Below:**  
**Jimmy Garvin and Hayes wait for Blanchard and Anderson to return to the ring after an incident where they ganged up on Hayes.**

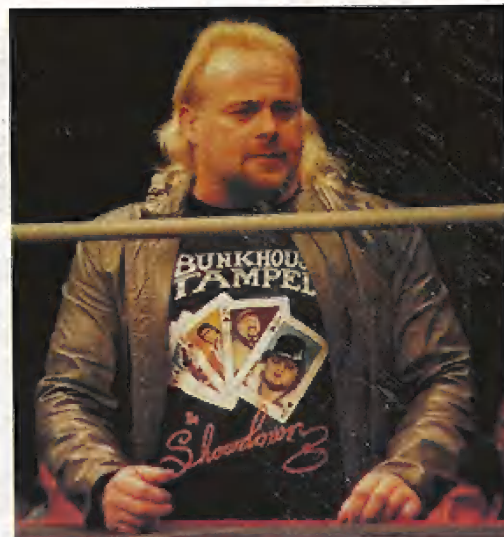




# Kevin Sullivan –

*is he up to his old tricks?*

Sullivan has brought Mike Rotunda and Rick Steiner into his camp. *WHO is next?*



As Nikita has Rotunda pinned to the mat, Sullivan is calling help to Rotunda.

It started out innocent enough. Kevin Sullivan started coming out during Ric Steiner and Mike Rotunda's matches and talking to them from ringside. He did not interfere. On his interviews, he would praise these men and say that they, "did not have direction. They just needed that driving force."

Then everything changed. Sullivan was again at ringside during Rotunda's TV-Title shot with Nikita Koloff. Nikita objected to Sullivan's presence, but Kevin assured him that he was there only to observe. "That's all", he said.

When Rotunda ended up getting pinned, Sullivan ran into the ring and started beating on Nikita. Sullivan just kind of looked at him. Sullivan encouraged Rotunda to join in and after a moment of hesitation, did just that. And then he started to look like he enjoyed it! And it has been that way ever since.

A big problem we see now, is that Sullivan is talking about Dr. Death in the same way he started with Steiner and Rotunda. So far, Doc is ignoring him. Steve Williams certainly does not need this type of management. Steiner and Rotunda sure did listen to him, though. Hopefully, Doc will stay away from this wierd group.



Nikita tries to fight back against Rotunda and Sullivan. Eventually he goes down.



Rotunda now seems to be enjoying himself as Nikita is pummeled.



# The Bunkhouse Stampede

## A Report in-progress:

**The Bunkhouse Stampede is still currently underway as we go to press. Below is some of the wild action witnessed so far, as well as details of the Stampede as it builds towards the Finals.**

The Bunkhouse Stampede season is still fully underway as we go to press. You can see by the accompanying pictures that the matches are wild and unruly at best. There have been many different winners so far. It is all building towards the Bunkhouse Finals on January 24, 1988 at Nassau Coliseum in New York. The eleven top money winners will battle it out one more time to see who truly indeed is "The Bull Of The Woods." This Bunkhouse Stampede will be slightly different than the previous ones in that the ring will be surrounded by a cage and the only way to eliminate your opponent is to either throw him over the top of the cage or out the door, which will be kept closed.

The winner will receive \$500,000 on top of all the Bunkhouse money that he has accumulated so far. He will also win a silver and gold Bunkhouse belt buckle and matching badge to keep as a trophy.

The top money winners so far, as they are adding up at press-time are, Animal to represent the Road Warriors, "Dr. Death" Steve Williams, Ivan Koloff, The Barbarian, The Warlord (three men from Paul Jones), The Mighty Wilbur, Big Bubba Rogers representing the Midnight Express, Lex Luger, Arn Anderson and Tully Blanchard.

The final eleventh spot will be determined January 1 in Atlanta in a five-man, wild-card Bunkhouse Stampede featuring Nikita Koloff, Bobby Eaton, Black Bart, Dick Murdoch and Dusty Rhodes.

The Bunkhouse Finals on January 24 in New York will be the "Ultimate Stampede." The eleven top money winners will battle it out for the final victory and a half-million dollars prize. This event is so big, that for the first time the whole card will be carried coast-to-coast via closed-circuit showings and Pay-Per-View cable in one of the largest networks ever set up to present pro wrestling. The Bunkhouse Finals will only happen one time. There is only one winner, and when the bell rings there will be no friends.







**The  
Bunkhouse  
Stampede  
Finals**

**Jan. 24 '88**

**Nassau, NY**

**Closed-  
Circuit  
showings  
coast-to-coast  
and  
National  
Pay-Per-View  
Cable.**

***Don't miss it!***





# STARRCADE '87

**Part II - Last month we gave you the major pictorial highlights with 14 exclusive color photos. This issue, we tell you everything that happened, including locker room interviews, quotes and scuttle not heard on the closed-circuit broadcast. We also publish some more of the 200+ great shots we brought back from Starrcade. Others will follow in future issues.**

**Chicago, Thanksgiving Night 1987.** The attention of the entire wrestling world was focused on this city, this night. The top five major wrestling titles in the world were up for grabs. The air was electric. Reputations and careers were at stake. Chicago was a total sell-out weeks before Thanksgiving. Thousands of people streamed into the building and there was not one seat for sale in the UIC Pavilion to see the matches live. As we went to the ticket window to pick up our press passes, we noticed that they were selling tickets to see Starrcade at several closed-circuit sights in Chicago and people were lined up to buy these tickets. (Editor's note: The next day we found out that at least one of these theaters in Chicago was a total sell-out as well, and the others were fairly full. Chicago is a GREAT town for wrestling!)

The whole country would be watching this night's events LIVE. The show was available live all over the country via Pay-Per-View Cable outlets as well as over 100 closed-circuit sights, some on a two hour delayed basis. In Charlotte and New Orleans the fans were treated to several live matches as well as the closed-circuit telecast. Hundreds of thousands of people were cheering and booing simultaneously all across the nation.

And the event held up to all expectations. Some of the greatest wrestling ever witnessed happened that night. Last issue, we showed the pictorial highlights. This month we will go into details of the matches.

## SIX-MAN ACTION

Sting, Jimmy Garvin, Michael Hayes  
vs.  
Eddie Gilbert, Rick Steiner, Larry Zbyszko

This was a wild match where the momentum went back and forth. Sting did some absolutely amazing moves, including a flying dive over the top ropes from the center of the ring, landing on top of Rick Steiner. He was actually flying horizontal for quite some time. Rick Steiner was awesome as well and has some devastating power moves. Zbyszko and Gilbert got their licks in too, but Hayes and Garvin handled themselves very well. The match ended in a fifteen minute time-limit draw, but the battle continued after the bell. This bout needed more time as there was too much bad blood involved for everybody to do

what they wanted to do. The referee was constantly having to break up wrestlers running in and in fact, the match started as a six-man all in the ring brawl. We'll be seeing these teams battle each other again in the future, I'm sure.

## UWF CHAMPIONSHIP

Steve "Dr. Death" Williams, UWF Champion  
vs.  
Barry Windham, Western States Champion

This match started out with the two friends shaking hands and then warily testing each other. All of a sudden, Doc scooped Windham up high over his head and pressed him high into the lights three or four times. Instead of fiercely throwing him down into the mat, Doc kind of flipped him down. Barry got up, squared off with Doc, and they touched hands. Barry started running across the ring and Doc started running across the ring the other way. They got faster and faster and everyone wondered when they would collide. Finally it was inevitable and instead of smashing Barry down with a forearm, as he could have, Williams leap-frogged over Windham's head. At least he tried to. Barry Windham is something like 6'6" or so. Maybe taller. Anyway, Windham's head drove straight into Williams' groin and Steve collapsed into a moaning pile. The referee started to count Williams, but Barry pulled him off repeatedly. Each time the referee would have to start over, but Windham was giving Doc time to recover and get himself together. He easily could have pinned him right then. We later had the chance to ask him about this, and he said, "That belt wouldn't have meant a thing to me if I would have won

it that way. I never could have looked at myself in the mirror."

After a minute or so, Doc got himself up and started running and bouncing against the ropes to get his blood pumping again. A few minutes later, Barry threw himself at Doc with a flying body-press, but Doc ducked, raised himself up and flipped Windham right over the top ropes and crashing into the barricade and the ring announcer's table. Doc went outside the ring and it looked for a moment that he would grab Windham's head and crash it into the table, but instead he stopped and motioned for Windham to get into the ring and rolled in himself.

Barry looked at him and climbed back in, still hurting, no doubt, from the barricade. Almost the very second Barry was in the ring, Doc rolled him up in an Oklahoma side roll and the referee counted 1-2-3.

Doc looked down to see if Windham was okay and then left the ring picking up his belt on the way out. The people were booing him.

We spoke to Doc in the locker room for a second afterwards. We asked, "Doc, the people booed you. What happened?"

"Hey, they just don't understand. I've sweated blood for a lot of years for that belt. I've had to go through a lot of people. And a lot of friends too, in fact. Me and Barry are still friends. I'll buy him a beer tonight if he'll let me. A champion has to recognize when to make his move. I sure didn't come all the way to Chicago on Thanksgiving to be a good buddy to Barry and lose my belt through a stupid mistake. I got

through the first mistake, but I wasn't going to let another happen."

"What about a rematch, Doc? Will you give Barry one?"

"Yea. I'll give him a rematch. Tell the promoters to get the contracts ready. Just don't make any mistakes, Barry. I'm hanging onto this title for a long time. This belt is my heritage. This belt and I are like one and the same. I'm not losing it to anybody."



Sting holds Steiner down while Hayes and Garvin look on.

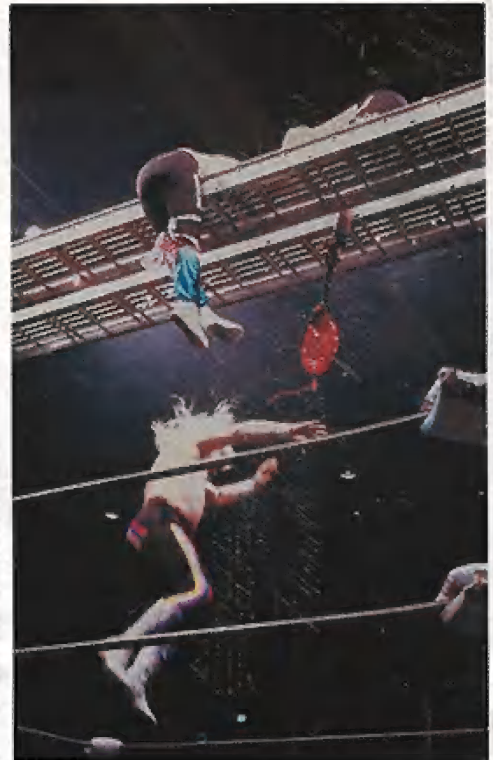
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**Left:**  
Dr. Death  
puts Barry  
Windham in  
a neck-lock.

**Right:**  
Bobby Eaton  
falls about  
25 feet from  
the scaffold.  
Stan Lane  
followed  
about a  
minute later.



### THE SKYWALKERS MATCH

The Midnight Express  
with Jimmy Cornette and Big Bubba Rogers  
vs.  
The Rock-N-Roll Express

This has got to be one of the most dangerous, suicidal type matches in the history of wrestling. A narrow scaffold is suspended about twenty feet above the ring. Two teams of wrestlers go to the top and the loser is the team in which both members fall off the scaffold. Pinfalls do not count. You must throw both your opponents off the scaffold. If he misses the ring, it's an extra 5 feet or so and you hit concrete.

The action at Starrcade started way before the bell rang. Robert Gibson climbed to the top of the scaffold as he was supposed to, but unfortunately Big Bubba got a hold of Ricky Morton and gave him the Bubba-Slam before he got up the ladder. Then the bell rang. Robert was up there all by himself with both of the Midnight Express and they went two-on-one on him until you could see the blood on Robert's face even way up there. He was grabbing at their ankles, so they didn't dare try throwing him over since they would be taken with him. So they just kept pounding and stomping on him.

Finally Ricky got his wind back and got the tennis racket away from Cornette, beat up Bubba with it and then climbed to the top of the scaffold to help his partner (who really needed it by now). Bobby Eaton threw powder in both men's eyes and he and Stan proceeded to kick and stomp Ricky and Robert. Gibson managed to hit Eaton with the tennis racket a few times and then it fell back to the floor. Cornette picked it up and with amazing accuracy tossed it with one flick of the wrist back up to Eaton who caught it perfectly. After fighting back and forth, including a scary moment where part of the scaffold fell off, the Rock-N-Rollers got the tennis racket back. Stan Lane was the first to finally be shoved off and Bobby Eaton followed a few minutes later. Robert Gibson went ahead and climbed down, but Bubba was climbing up the other side! All of a sudden, Ricky and Bubba were staring each other face-to-face some 30 feet above the concrete floor!

Bubba took off his hat and his jacket, tossing them down to the ring. Then he started for Morton, who went in low - very low - striking Bubba in a sensitive area. Bubba dropped to his knees and Ricky dashed down the ladder. On his way out, he donned Bubba's hat and coat to the crowd's pleasure.

We checked in the back and neither Lane nor Eaton had sustained permanent injuries, although both were quite shaken up and various parts of their bodies were sore.

Nobody was talking, except Cornette, (who never shuts up) who said that this wasn't over and that, "The Rock-N-Roll Express cheated by bringing the tennis racket up there in the first place and using it on my men. Otherwise it would have just been four athletes wrestling a clean fair match. They're the ones who brought up a weapon."

"What about Bubba slamming Ricky Morton even before the bell rang?", I asked.

"He attacked me! How far do you want to take this back, boy?" he retorted.

"Well, I sure wouldn't blame it on your tennis racket. You brought it to ringside."

"Yes I did. It has very special meaning to me. It was given to me by my mother. I brought it to ringside for good luck and they took it away and used it as a weapon. My mother did not buy it for them and she won't appreciate this one bit. I can assure you that her attorneys will be on this first thing Monday morning."

### WORLD TELEVISION TITLE UNIFICATION MATCH

Nikita Koloff, NWA TV Champion  
vs.  
Terry Taylor, UWF TV Champion

This match was very historic in nature, due to the fact that the two television titles would be unified and the winner would be the undisputed World Television Champion. The build-up to this match was intensified by the fact that Taylor stole Koloff's belt on national television several weeks earlier and would not return it. This prompted Commissioner John Ayres and NWA President Jim Crockett to force Taylor to wrestle Koloff to unify the belts.

Taylor and Koloff spent quite a bit of time sizing each other up and looking for some kind of advantage. "Hotstuff" Eddie Gilbert was at ringside doing his best to distract Nikita and interfere when and where he could. There were several near pinfalls on both sides. The ending came at about 18 minutes into the match when Eddie Gilbert jumped on the ring apron and Nikita went after him. Eddie held Nikita while Taylor ran at him full speed with a flying knee. At the last second, Nikita moved and Taylor caught Gilbert, knocking him to the floor. Terry picked himself up and as he turned around to face Nikita, he was looking into a fully cocked Russian Sickle which was immediately launched into his throat. Taylor went down like a sack of potatoes and Nikita got the pin, won the match and undisputed World Television Title.

### WORLD TAG-TEAM MATCH

Arn Anderson and Tully Blanchard,  
current World Tag-Team champions  
vs.  
The Road Warriors,  
International Tag-Team Champions

This was a classic war. A full-fledged brawl. It was so wild that there is really no way to describe the action. These pictures will help show the madness that occurred. The ending came when referee Tommy Young was thrown from the ring by a crashing blow from Tully Blanchard. At that point, Arn Anderson runs full-speed at Animal, who ducks and flips Anderson over the top ropes. The Road Warriors then give Blanchard a double-clothesline, which totally destroys him. Then they hit Arn with a flying clothesline off the top rope that knocked his head all the way back. I mean, it just snapped.

In the meantime, a second referee had run in and counted the pinfall, giving the World Tag-





Team belts to The Road Warriors. They held the belts high, as this was their hometown. The fans in Chicago went crazy, as Road Warrior fans watching coast-to-coast viewing via cable did.

But then, Tommy Young picks himself up from off the floor and pulls himself into the ring. He then tells referee Earl Hebner that he had disqualified Animal for throwing Anderson over the top rope. The decision was reversed and the referee raised the limp arms of Anderson and Blanchard, who were still out cold. Hawk and Animal refused to listen to this and went to the dressing room holding the belts high above their heads.



Later, Tommy Young had the unpleasant job of retrieving the belts and giving them back to the Horsemen camp.

Anderson and Blanchard had to be helped to the back. While they were setting up the cage for the Luger vs. Rhodes match, I went back to the locker room hoping to catch a quote or two. The dressing room door was already closing when Hawk saw me out of the corner of his eye. He slammed the door open real wide with a loud bang and said, "HEY!"

"Me?" I said as I pointed at someone else - anyone else.

"YEA. You write in that wrestling magazine right?", he demanded to know.

"Yes. Do you want to give me a quote about the match tonight?"

"YOU TELL THOSE PUKES THAT THEY ARE DEAD HORSE MEAT! WE DIDN'T GROW UP TO BE SUPER SUB-HUMAN MONSTERS TO BE ROBBED IN OUR HOMETOWN BY THOSE LOW-LIFE SCUM. WE ARE GOING TO RIP THEM TO PIECES NEXT TIME. PRINT THAT," he belted at me.

"I got it, Hawk. It will be printed. In the very next issue. I promise. Ok?", I asked.

"YEA," he said and then slammed the locker room door so hard that it was probably heard in the arena.

#### U.S. TITLE MATCH

Lex Luger, current U.S. Champion

vs.

Dusty Rhodes

**Stipulations:** Match takes place in a Cage.

If Dusty Rhodes loses, he must quit wrestling for 90 days.

This was a match in which a young rising star could put away a living legend. If Lex Luger could hold off Dusty Rhodes, he would not only retain his championship, but he would put the The American Dream, Dusty Rhodes, out of business for three months. Luger didn't even have to beat Rhodes. Just keep from being beat.

The situation was further complicated by the fact that Dusty had recently mastered a fast-working sleep hold called "The Weaverlock", as invented by Johnny Weaver, who taught it to Dusty. J.J. Dillon retaliated by having Hiro Matsuda teach Luger his own version of a deadly sleeper hold. So the stage was set. They would be in a cage. Neither Dillon nor the other Horsemen could interfere. The gatekeeper was Johnny Weaver.

Dusty got a great reaction from the crowd. When Luger started posing in Dusty's face, Dusty retaliated with his own brand of posing. This got Luger upset and the crowd enjoyed it. Then things started getting serious. At one point Luger even got Rhodes up in his Back-Breaker, but Rhodes managed to get Luger off-balance and broke the hold.

Dusty did get the Weaverlock on Luger, but after a few moments Luger flipped down and Dusty went flying head first into the steel mesh of the cage. Luger then jumped up and ran his head into the cage a few more times. At this point, Dusty was a bloody mess.

Dusty Rhodes then does a Flying Dropkick on Luger. It was amazing to behold, to be sure, and Luger went sailing. Then, Dusty scooped Luger up in his arms, in the middle of the ring, and put the Weaverlock on him. The crowd started cheering. Dusty was putting all the pressure he could muster and Luger was getting limp. J.J. Dillon saw that the end was near and smashed Johnny Weaver (who was holding the key to the cage) over the head with a chair. He then reached in Weaver's pocket and got the key.

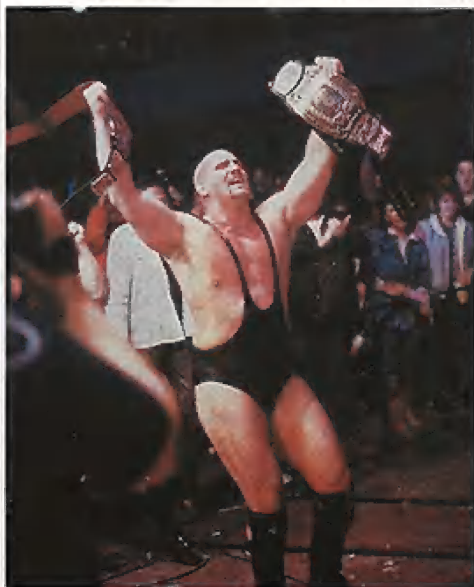
As Dillon went to unlock the cage, in his haste he dropped the key to the floor. He looked down at it and then in the ring at the near-unconscious Luger. The referee was just about to call the match and time was running out. Dillon was desperate. Then the referee came over to the door and told him to get away.

Lex Luger saw his manager in the corner distracting the referee and with his last ounce of effort charged the corner dragging Rhodes with him for part of the way. The referee was smashed into the corner of the cage and fell backward with the wind knocked out of him. J.J. threw the chair over the top of the cage for Luger to use and all of a sudden the crowd saw everything reverse. Rhodes was about to be beat senseless with a steel chair inside a locked cage.

Luger went to pick up the chair, but Dusty grabbed him around the waist, rolled him in the air and applied a D.D.T. with Luger's head landing square on the steel chair! It was unbelievable! Just like that, the match was over and Luger had lost the belt. Dusty Rhodes showed a large arsenal of wrestling moves this particular night. He also proved that a Legend cannot be taken lightly. He told Lex Luger before the matches, "To be a legend, you have to beat the legend."

Lex Luger did not beat Dusty Rhodes that night in Chicago. The Total Package, however, is surely destined to be a legend himself one day.

Oh, a postscript to this was after the match, loud talking and even shouting was heard coming from behind the Horsemen's private locker room door. Arn Anderson was posted outside the door to make sure that nobody lurked around listening or tried to enter.







**NWA WORLD HEAVYWEIGHT TITLE MATCH**  
**Ron Garvin, current World Champion**  
**vs.**  
**Ric Flair, former 4-time World Champion**

This was the finale of the evening. All the other great matches built up to this one. The entire wrestling world was on the edge of their seats. Would Ric Flair regain the title that he claims is his for all time. The title that suits his life-style so well? Or would Ron Garvin turn him away proving that his victory over Flair in Detroit was not a fluke and that he could repeat it?

Flair and Garvin did not waste any time and in no time it was slap-city, with the chops flying. These two men chop each other so hard that the building would reverberate with each blow. Tommy Young's face, the referee, was registering the pain of each blow, although none were directed at him.

There were several near pinfalls on both sides and Flair started getting pretty bloody. Garvin introduced Flair's head into the steel mesh several times and on one occasion even ran his head back and forth across the mesh like a cheese-grater. Flair came back though and it went back and forth for several wild minutes with both men almost winning. At just under the twenty minute mark, Flair picked Garvin up and did a move very similar to Eddie Gilbert's "Hot-Shot", except that instead of bouncing Garvin off the top rope, he rammed his head into the post that supports the cage. Flair immediately dumped Garvin's body on the mat and covered him for the pin.

James J. Dillon ran to the cage door to greet the new World Champion as he exited. I heard Flair saying as he kissed the World Belt, "We made it, baby! We made it!"





# Larry Zbyszko

*"I'm going to lie, cheat and steal my way to a title."*

After thirteen glorious years in the squared circle, Larry Zbyszko has never won a major championship. He has set his sights on Barry Windham's Western States Title, but has said he'd wrestle Flair or Dr. Death too. He wants a belt. He demands a belt, in fact. It really bothers Zbyszko that he has been a major star for thirteen years, but the championship has always eluded him.

In Houston, we saw Larry Zbyszko and asked him a few questions. (He loves interviews because he knows he gets his message across.)

Dennis: Hi Larry, what's new?

Zbyszko: You know, Baby Doll and I have decided that Barry Windham has an emotional problem. Perhaps he has been dropped on the concrete one too many times. I came out like a nice guy and gave him a chance to hand over the belt. He ignored me.

Dennis: You didn't seriously expect him to just hand it over to you, did you?

Zbyszko: Sure. It's what's best. You know, I think Barry Windham has the wrong impression of me. I didn't wrestle thirteen glorious years, and build assets of one million bucks so some kid can go to Hawaii with a beautiful deaf mute when I'm gone. Because I'm going there! I'm the one! And Windham, you're going to be riding out on

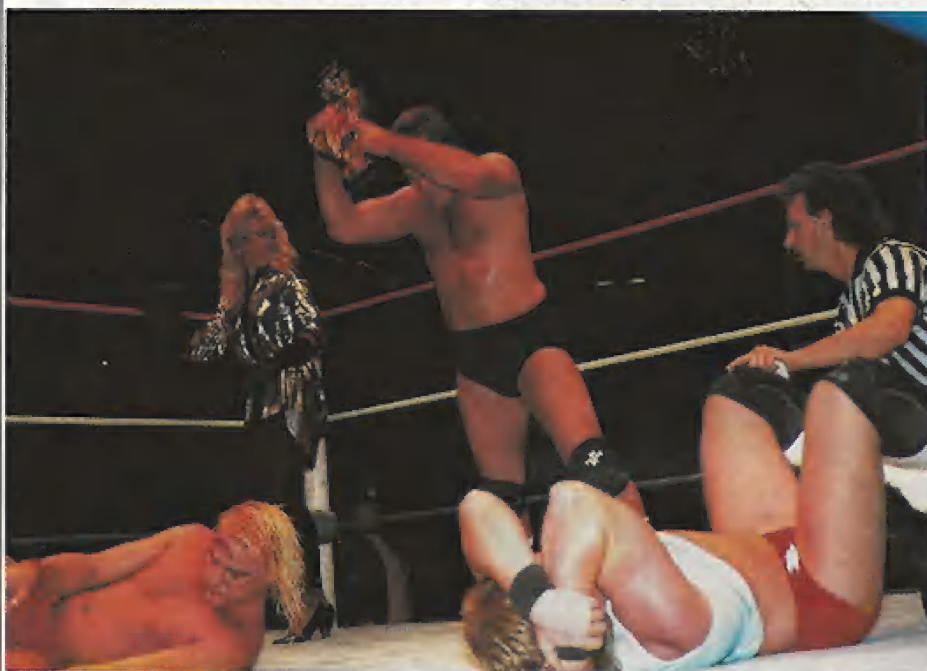
the range. In your little cowboy outfit. You and your brother can play Lone Ranger and Tonto all day long.

Dennis: Ok, ok. What else? What's on the horizon for you?

Zbyszko: Hey, man. I've had it! I'm going to lie. I'm going to cheat. I'm going to pay the officials. I'm not running for Supreme Court Justice here! I'm not running for President! I'm crooked to the core. I'm going to steal a belt if I have to. I've put people out of



Zbyszko holds up the belt he stole from Windham.



Zbyszko smashes Tim Horner, after Horner ran in to tell the referee that Zbyszko used the object.



Baby Doll hands Zbyszko a foreign object.



Larry Zbyszko and Baby Doll walk off with Windham's belt.

this business who had more talent than Windham. I've put away a few legends myself. So Windham. One of these days you will realize that all you are, all you ever were, was the first step in our stairway to Heaven.

Dennis: Anything you want to tell the fans?

Zbyszko: Sheee. Those spudheads? They can go play cowboy with Windham for all I care.





Dusty is jerked down by Bobby Eaton for the others to kick.

# Late Breaking News Flash!

## The Midnight Express & Big Bubba Rogers ATTACK Dusty Rhodes!

At press-time, Dusty's condition was uncertain.

*You will not see these pictures in ANY other wrestling magazine!*



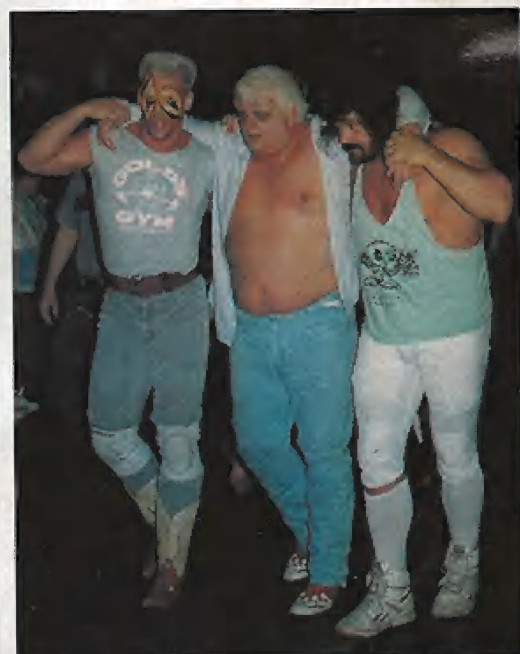
Above: Dusty valiantly fights back, but the odds were too great. They got him down again.

Below: Finally the wrestlers see what is happening and run out to help, but it is too late.



FLASH – We don't have all the details yet, but Jimmy Cornette has decided that he is not going to wait around for Dusty Rhodes to decide if he is going to retire or not. He has taken the matter into his own hands and instructed Big Bubba and the Midnight Express to attack Dusty during an interview and lure him in hopes of Dusty not being able to return. He has also commissioned Beautiful Bobby Eaton to take away the U.S. Title from Rhodes as soon as possible.

In an interview on WTBS, Jimmy Cornette said, "My Mother gave me two orders. One was to get the U.S. Title. The other was to put the revered Cornette name in the history books as the family that put Dusty Rhodes out of business. Dusty Rhodes, you've been a big deal for 16 years. You've been in the middle of everything that's ever gone on in professional wrestling. I think you're a big, low-class, red-neck goof. Look in the mirror, brother! Look at your knees. Like Muhammad Ali, you're in there a few fights too many and your brain has turned to jelly! We want title matches with you, Rhodes! My Mother has told her attorneys to call Jim Crockett and demand them! It's over, Rhodes."



Sting and Dr. Death help Dusty to the locker room.



## Letters - continued

question. I asked, "How's it working out with you and General Akbar?"

He studied my face for a moment maybe wondering what might be behind the question and answered, "It's working just fine. Just fine, ok? I recently got a title-shot at Barry Windham. I was getting title-shots at Dr. Death. I'm not through with those two. Akbar got those matches signed for me. I won a lot of those matches too, but the dad-burned referee was either not in position or was paid off. I'm still after a belt. I've held belts many times before, and I'm gonna take one here real soon. I might even go after that stupid Russian's TV-Title. Maybe Dusty Rhodes' U.S. Title. I battled with Dusty and against Dusty in the past. C'mon, Dusty Rhodes. Remember Black Bart? I'm challenging you."

Dear NWA-PWD,

Are Dr. Death and Barry Windham still friends?

Linda Douglas  
Ft. Worth, TX

Yes, Linda. Doc says that he doesn't have anything against Barry. He is just not going to lose to him. Barry says that he has a lot of respect for Doc. He still considers him his friend. BUT, he does intend to beat him and he does not appreciate some of the moves Williams has made on him.

Dear PWD,

I attended a NWA match in Tulsa and really enjoyed watching the Jive-Tones dance before the match. They came out strutting like the California Raisins to the tune of "I Heard It On The Grapevine." It was just great! I wanted to get out in the aisle and dance with them! But then later they used their canes as weapons, and I didn't go for that at all. Well, they sure got the rhythm, anyway. Jessie Carver  
Tulsa, OK

Dear NWA-PWD,

Thanks for listing the ratings.  
David Turner

Dear NWA-PWD, Please print this letter:  
Dear Rick Steiner,

I have watched your career for a long time. I don't always like what you do, but I like your slams Please do not listen to Kevin Sullivan. He is BAD NEWS in capital letters. I've noticed that he is

going to ringside during your matches and talking to you. He is wierd and scary. I've watched him all my life and he will mess you up. You just don't know him. I live in Florida and have seen what he does to people. Please listen to me! Bobby Warner  
Tampa, FL

Dear NWA,

Can you please give us some information on the new host, Jack Gregory? I've seen him somewhere before. Randy Donovan  
Ft. Lee, NJ

Yes, Randy, you have sharp eyes. Jack Gregory (pictured below) is the new host of Championship Wrestling From Florida, as well as Power Pro Wrestling. Jack hails from the Sunshine State and graduated from Florida State University. His career in broadcasting has been wide and varied. He started on a local affiliate in the sports dept. Jack then had a stint with NBC where he did commentary from Olympic tryouts, sideline interviews at a SuperBowl and handled the studio aspect of NBC's NFL wrap-up show. Jack was offered to head a sports dept. at a network affiliate, where he stayed until offered the opportunity to work with Jim Crockett Promotions.

Jack says, "I've watched wrestling in Florida all my life. I grew up on it, and it's a true honor to now be hosting the show. Florida wrestling has a true heritage to it, and I intend to do my best in bringing the action to the fans."



Jack Gregory

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# Predictions for 1988

A visit to a leading psychic brings  
some very interesting results...

We recently contacted nationally known psychic/astrologer, Dr. Hugo K. Fabian, head of the National Metaphysical Foundation, and provided him with the names and birthdates of several top NWA stars.

**Disclaimer:** Dr. Fabian's predictions do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the editorial staff of this magazine, but we thought you might enjoy what he had to say. Some are humorous while others are very thought provoking. Well, here we go with Predictions for 1988.

**Barry Windham** may lose some friends along the way, but 1988 will be a year he will never forget. He must watch all sides.

**Ric Flair** will prove to the world that he is the greatest champion of all time in the most spectacular year of his career. It is unclear, however, if he will still be World Champion at the end of 1988.

**Michael P.S. Hayes** is destined to become a major title holder in 1988.

**Dusty Rhodes** will not retire in 1988, but will endure the most trying year in his career. At that point, he may hang it up.

**The Rock n Roll Express** will split their team because of a mysterious woman.

**Willie Nelson** will record a hit country song entitled, "The American Dream".

**Terry Taylor** will end his friendship with **Eddie Gilbert**, and **Hot Stuff** will be at fault. Taylor will also turn down a major men's cologne endorsement because it wasn't **KOUROS™**, his favorite.

**Missy Hyatt** will be asked to star in a movie about the life of **Dolly Parton**.

**Sting** and the **Road Warriors** will be approached by **Revlon Cosmetics** to endorse a new line of masculine make-up.

**Ric Flair's** alleged relationship with **Donna Rice** will be proved unfounded, however the **Nature Boy** will be highly sought after for **PEOPLE** magazine, as well as **60 Minutes**.

**Paul Jones** will be voted the coveted **Johnny Cash** award for the man wearing the most black on national television.

**Lex Luger** will gain overwhelming popularity in 1988 and will turn down the opportunity to appear in a major motion picture to put his wrestling career first in 1988.

**Doctor Death Steve Williams** will appear on network television early in 1988.

**Tully Blanchard, Arn Anderson, and Ric Flair** will appear on the **Oprah Winfrey Show**, and will introduce their new line of men's cologne, "Horsemen".

**The Mighty Wilbur** will have his hair cut in a flat top to match his new tag team partner, **Ron Garvin**.

**Ron Simmons** will develop a new offensive weapon that will vault him to national prominence.

**New York City** will become one of the hottest cities on the NWA tours for 1988.

**Jimmy Cornette** will team with **Richard Simmons** to open a chain of low-cal pizza parlors specializing in all night delivery, as well as motivational tapes at any hour.

**Kevin Sullivan's** activities will become very unusual indeed, and he will not be invited to join the **PTL**.

**Rick Steiner**, with unusual motivation, will reach new heights, and become a major force in the NWA.

**Nikita Koloff** will be a tremendous television champion, but will set his sights on much bigger titles.

**Nelson Royal** will be severely tested for the NWA Junior Heavyweight Title.

**Hot Stuff Eddie Gilbert** will be heavily fined for actions during a future match, possibly in regards to **Nelson Royal**.

A darkhorse will win the **Bunkhouse Stampede** and the \$500,000 prize!



**General Skandor Akbar** (above) will spend a great deal of money in one of wrestling's biggest mergers of wrestling talent.

**The Shepherders'** picture will be used on a national poster to warn children to never, ever speak to strangers.

**Brad Armstrong and Tim Horner** will change their style and it will mean instant success for the **Lightning Express**.

**Hundreds of wrestlers** will attempt to join the **Four Horsemen**. The effects of their final decision will be shocking.

**Texan, Dick Murdoch** will be asked to speak at the **Oklahoma University Football Banquet**, but will respectfully decline.

**The Jive-Tones, Tiger Conway and Shaska Whately**, will be phoned and asked to stand in for two of **The Four Tops** in Las Vegas in an emergency situation when two members of the popular singing group come down with a throat virus on opening night at **The DUNE'S Hotel**.

**The Jim Crockett Sr. Memorial Cup** will be the most watched syndicated sports event ever on television.



# NWA-PWD Dream Match '88 Contest

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????????

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????????

*You pick the sides!*

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*My idea for a Dream Match would be:*

*to wrestle against*

*Why ? (in 25 words or less)*

## OFFICIAL BALLOT #2

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*to wrestle against*

*Why ? (in 25 words or less)*





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